

working draft letter RE Helena Growth plan -

To:

Re: input to the draft July 2019 growth plan

We, the Helena Citizen Conservation Advisory Board, thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Draft July 2019 Helena Growth Policy. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the document and would like to offer some of our input.

The Helena Citizens Conservation Advisory Board (CCB) was formed in 2018, (per recommendation in the 2009 Helena Climate Change task Force) with a purpose to “advise the City and city commission regarding actions to support the Paris Agreement including the goal to hold warming to well below 2 C, and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy that will benefit Helena’s security, prosperity, and health” (Res. No. 20347 *need to add complete reference*). The CCB purposes also include to “support, recommend, report on, and monitor sustainability measures undertaken by the City”, as well as “designing, developing, and implementing a public awareness campaign to engage and empower citizens of Helena to take action and respond to the urgent threat of climate change.”

At this point in time, Helena is facing a challenge shared by all communities around the world - and that is, how to be adaptable, responsive, resilient, and thrive in the context of a rapidly accelerating climate change. This is a time-sensitive situation with profound impacts affecting the many facets of our lives, and therefore, requires an integrative, action-orient and assertive response. This update to the Growth Policy presents an opportunity to plan for, adapt, mitigate, and reverse climate change impacts in the Helena area.

Given the reality of climate change and the recent (July 2019) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [Report\[HD1\]](#) on how land-use decisions can make the impacts of climate change more catastrophic or make a community more resilient to the impacts. The report states, “Climate Change creates additional stresses on land, exacerbating existing risks to livelihoods, biodiversity, human and ecosystem health, infrastructure, and food [systems\[HD2\]](#).” This Growth Policy takes into account many of these systems that will be at greater or less risk, depending on our land use decisions in the coming decades and, as such, climate change is central to our planning decisions and policies.

For these reasons, the **CCB advocates that the 2019 Helena Growth Policy focuses on, as it’s overarching goal, “growing” Helena into a community that is climate adaptive, resilient and thriving.**

With this over arching goal, we envision this Growth Policy could state the inclusion of targets (or the setting of targets within several months) that highlight City and community wide timelines for transitioning to renewable energy sources, decreasing daily gallons of water per person used, and action items that decrease green house gas emissions. Currently, the CCB is collecting data for analysis that will aid in providing the City with pertinent suggestions of targets and time lines.

We offer the following suggestions to the July 2019 draft growth policy:

- state overarching goal of “growing” Helena into a community that is climate adaptive, resilient and thriving.
- state umbrella targets with mileposts for GHG emissions, renewable energy conversion, water usage, and ?Others?
- include paragraphs 3 & 4 or wording similar to paragraphs provided in letter (*reword...*)
- under goals and objectives section for chapters 5,7, and 8 insert wording from Climate change action plan and 2011 growth policy. SEE CHART
- other???

Thank you,

The Helena Citizens Conservation Advisory Board

include all of our names